

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, RP

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT CRACKS DOWN ON STUDENT PROTEST AT UP

REF: (A) A-18 JANUARY 16, 1976, (B) MANILA 1297,

(C) MANILA 1298, (D) MANILA 1279

1. GROWING STUDENT UNREST AT UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (UP) HAS RESULTED IN DETENTION OF SEVERAL STUDENT LEADERS AND SHUTDOWN OF CAMPUS NEWSPAPER, PHILIPPINE COLLEGIAN. CURRENT WAVE OF UNREST AT PHILIPPINES' MOST PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITY BEGAN WHEN MILITARY CALLED IN EDITORS OF UP CAMPUS NEWSPAPER DECEMBER 26 AND WARNED THEM TO TONE DOWN INCREASINGLY ANTI-REGIME CONTENT OF ARTICLES (SEE REF. A). INSTEAD OF BEING INTIMIDATED, COLLEGIAN EDITORS REACTED BY ORGANIZING CAMPUS SUPPORT FOR "FREEDOM OF PRESS" AT UP. THREE SUBSEQUENT ISSUES OF COLLEGIAN PUBLICIZED ISSUE. IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONSULATIVE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS (STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP ORGANIZED BY UP ADMINISTRATION FOLLOWING 1972 ABOLITION OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT), SERIES OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING SYMPOSIUMS, DOOR-TO-DOOR DORMITORY CAMPAIGNS, AND TORCH-LIGHT PARADE WAS ORGANIZED.

2. ON JANUARY 23 ACTIVITIES AT UP DRAMATIZING FREEDOM OF PRESS ISSUE WERE INTERRUPTED BY NEWS THAT FOUR STUDENT

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LEADERS, INCLUDING CONSULATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND

A MANAGING EDITOR OF COLLEGIAN, WERE ARRESTED BY MILITARY. IN RESPONSE, STUDENTS HASTILY ORGANIZED PROTEST MARCH THROUGH UP CAMPUS AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 23. THE DEMONSTRATION, IN WHICH ROUGHLY 500 TO 1,000 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED, WAS BROKEN UP WITHOUT VIOLENCE BY CAMPUS POLICE (TWO FIRE ENGINES BRIEFLY APPEARED ON CAMPUS AND THEM WITHDREW). CAMPUS POLICE ARRESTED ABOUT 10 STUDENTS, BUT RELEASED THEM THE SAME DAY. DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 24 - 25, COLLEGIAN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF DITTO SARMIENTO WAS PICKED UP BY MILITARY. SARMIENTO AND THE FOUR STUDENTS ARRESTED EARLIER ARE STILL UNDER DETENTION. ON THE MORNING OF JANUARY 28 REGULARLY SCHEDULED ISSUE OF COLLEGIAN FAILED TO APPEAR.

3. EVENTS AT UP COINCIDE WITH GENERAL GOVERNMENT CRACK-DOWN ON DISSIDENTS, INCLUDING EXPULSION OF TWO ITALIAN PRIESTS (REF. B), AND ARREST OF ALLEGED COMMUNISTS (REF.C) AND THREE OPPONENTS OF CHICO RIVER DAM PROJECT (REF.D.).

4. COMMENT: MARCOS GOVERNMENT, WITH EXPERIENCE OF VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS OF PRE-MARTIAL LAW DAYS IN MIND, SEEMS TO BE GROPING FOR MEANS OF NIPPING STUDENT PROTEST IN BUD WITHOUT EXACERBATING STUDENT RESENTMENT. SO FAR IT HAS FOUND NO EFFECTIVE WAY OF DOING THIS. ARRESTS AT UP HAVE ENGENDERED CONSIDERABLE NERVOUSNESS AND RESENTMENT WITHIN UP COMMUNITY. PRESENT MOOD OF BOTH FACULTY AND STUDENTS IS ALMOST ENTIRELY BEHIND COLLEGIAN EDITORS. HOWEVER, THERE REMAINS GREAT RELUCTANCE ON PART OF STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVIST MOVEMENTS WHILE THREAT OF ARREST AND DETENTION IS REAL. MOREOVER, MOOD AT UP HAS NOT SPREAD TO OTHER MANILA CAMPUSES, NOR IS IT LIKELY TO SPREAD TO PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITIES.

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## Message Attributes

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